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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Commodities
Committee on Tungsten
Twenty-third session
Geneva, 18 November 1991
Agenda item 9

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN ON ITS TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 18 to .. November 1991

Rapporteur: Ms. S. HU (China)

Addendum

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Chapter ...

CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS BY GOVERNMENTS AND INDUSTRY WHICH COULD BE SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE FINANCING UNDER THE SECOND ACCOUNT OF THE COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES

(Agenda item 6)

17. Under this agenda item, a representative of the UNCTAD secretariat introduced document TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/90. The secretariat then gave a brief oral report on the "Seminar on the operations of the Second Account", organized by the Common Fund, in Amsterdam, from 5 to 6 September 1991, for representatives of all designated ICBs. The Committee was informed of the main issues discussed, and a document from the Common Fund containing a summary of the deliberations was circulated.

18. During the discussions, several points were raised regarding the criteria and procedures by which the Committee would consider project proposals to be submitted for financing under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities. There was general consensus that it would be essential to have written criteria by which to evaluate project proposals. Several suggestions were put forward covering criteria and procedures which the Chairman was invited to summarize for adoption by the Committee at the present session.

19. The representative of the International Tungsten Industry Association presented for consideration by the Committee project proposals and ideas concerning areas which his association believed merited special attention. If among the proposals, priorities had to be set, he felt certain that research and development efforts could be particularly well invested in investigations of (a) environmental effects, and (b) further applications of tungsten-containing catalysts. He was invited by the Committee to submit as soon as possible for consideration complete project proposals in accordance with established guidelines.

20. A representative of China presented the three project proposals submitted by his country, which had been circulated in document TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/90/Add.1, namely: "development of the ultra fine-grained WC and cemented carbide"; "development of rare earth doped cemented carbide and its mechanism research"; and "development of the new process for heat-treatment of cemented carbide and its application".

21. In the Committee's comments on the proposals it raised such questions as the scope of the proposed projects, the financial structure, and participation by other countries. The Committee agreed to provide China with their written comments, as appropriate, (in English) through the UNCTAD secretariat by 31 January 1992. On the basis of these comments, China would prepare a revised version which would be sent to members of the Committee by the end of February 1992. The revised version of the project proposals would then be considered at an ad hoc meeting to be held in May or June 1992. It was agreed that the ad hoc meeting would consider all project proposals formally submitted. It was also agreed that the incumbent Chairman of the Committee would preside over the ad hoc meeting.

22. Further, it was agreed that the presentations of the two guest speakers should be circulated as documents of the Committee.

23. The Committee also agreed on the following draft provisional agenda for its twenty-fourth session.

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. (a) Examination of statistics and the review of the current market situation and outlook
   (b) Consideration of industry views on particular aspects of the tungsten industry
4. Consideration of ways, means and measures to improve the functioning and stability of the tungsten market through strengthened international cooperation between Governments and industries of producing and consuming countries

5. Consideration of project proposals by Governments and industry which could be submitted for possible financing under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities
6. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Tungsten to the Committee on Commodities